

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 HA-05 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2036
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRORITY
USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1093

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH, BC
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: GOB ATTITUDE TOWARD PF

REF: GABORONE 1067

1. SUMMARY: AT SOCIAL OCCASION APRIL 17, MINEXTAFF MOGWE AND PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARY LEGWAILA, WHO WERE AT DAR AS OBSERVERS, SPENT SOME TIME WITH DCM, AND LEGWAILA WITH IRO, GIVING THEIR REACTIONS TO THE MALTA II TALKS IN TERMS WHICH RE-ENFORCED PRESIDENT KHAMA'S REMARKS TO AMBASSADOR (REFTEL). THEIR ATTITUDE TO PF WAS ONE OF UNALLOYED DISGUST. MOGWE CHARACTERIZED THE PF POSITIONS AS VIRTUALLY ALL UNREASONABLE AND OBSTRUCTIONIST. END SUMMARY.

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2. MOGWE USED FOLLOWING SPECIFIC EXAMPLES TO ILLUSTRATE HIS VIEWS:

A. PF WILLING TO ACCEPT ALL-POWERFUL RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, "WITH A FEW CONDITIONS", I.E. THAT GOVERNING COUNCIL BE CONSTRUCTED ALONG 8-3-1 LINES; POLICE BE EMMASCULATED, ETC.

B. PF WILLING TO ACCEPT UN FORCE, "PROVIDING THEIR MANDATE IS CLEARLY ESTABLISHED", I.E. UN FORCE'S ONLY MISSION WOULD BE TO DISBAND SMITH SECURITY FORCES. "AND THIS IS DESIGNED TO ASSURE FREE ELECTIONS*", MOGWE LAUGHINGLY ADDED.

C. MOGWE NOTED PF WILLINGNESS TO ATTEND AN ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE, BUT SAID THAT "THIS WOULD JUST PROVIDE THEM A LARGER FORUM IN WHICH TO PLAY AN OBSTRUCTIONIST ROLE".

3. CONCERNING PRESS REPORTS THAT BOTSWANA, TANZANIA AND NIGERIA OBSERVERS HAD RAPPED PF'S KNUCKLES SOUNDLY, MOGWE ADMITTED THIS WAS TRUE, AND SAID HE HAD "EXPOSED HIS BROADSIDE" TO PF IN TELLING THEM EXACTLY HOW HE FELT. AS AN EXAMPLE, HE SAID HE REPLIED TO PF'S ASSERTION THAT THEY ENJOY NEAR-UNIVERSAL SUPPORT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, BY TELLING THEM THAT THE FRONTLINE IS NOT ALL AFRICA, AND AFRICA IS NOT THE ENTIRE WORLD; IF PF DID NOT ABANDON ITS UNREASONABLE POSITION, THEIR OAU SUPPORT, WHICH IS ALREADY FAR FROM UNIVERSAL, WOULD ERODE FURTHER AND ONE BY ONE OTHER AFRICAN STATES WOULD BEGIN TO RECOGNIZE SALISBURY REGIME. ALL THIS WAS TO NO AVAIL, HE CONCLUDED, SAYING "THERE SIMPLY IS NO USE; THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO WITH THOSE FELLOWS". TO SUPPORT THIS ESTIMATE, MOGWE SAID PF WAS SO DETERMINED TO HAVE TALKS FAIL THAT THEY AT ONE POINT CHARGED U.S. AND UK WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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BEING INTRANSIGENT. TO MOGWE, THIS WAS THE ULTIMATE IRONY.

4. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH IRO, LEGWAILA MADE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS:

A. PF DEMANDS WERE ABSOLUTELY UNREASONABLE AND CONTRADICTED ASSURANCES GIVEN BY PF TO FRONTLINE AND NIGERIA AT LAGOS AND AT DAR FL/PF SUMMIT. PF PROPOSALS TAKEN TOGETHER REPRESENTED REQUEST TO PREDOMINATE IN INTERIM PERIOD OF RHODESIA SETTLEMENT.

B. WHEN PF ARGUMENTS FAILED TO MOVE OWEN, THEY TRIED TO SHIFT TO VANCE HOPING FOR MORE SYMPATHETIC HEARING FROM AMERICANS. INSTEAD, SECRETARY INSISTED ON PRINCIPLES OF AAP INCLUDING EQUALITY AMONG THE NATIONALISTS IN THE INTERIM PERIOD.

C. FL AND NIGERIAN OBSERVERS WERE TOTALLY PUT OUT WITH PF BUT COULD SAY NOTHING UNDER RULES OF WORKING SESSIONS. NIGERIAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER GARBA REPORTEDLY BECAME SO UPSET WITH PF THAT COLLEAGUES HAD TO RESTRAIN HIM FROM LEAPING TO HIS FEET TO DENOUNCE NKOMO AND MUGABE. LEGWAILA SAID H.E. HAD ASKED NYERERE TO LEAN ON PF AGAIN; BUT NYERERE REPLIED THAT HE HAD DONE

ALL HE COULD. NYERERE REPORTEDLY SUGGESTED THAT KHAMA
HIMSELF TAKE ON PF BUT TO DATE HAS NOT DONE SO.

5. WHEN ASKED WHERE WE GO FROM HERE, LEGWAILA REPLIED
THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE HOW SALISBURY AGREE-
MENT GOES. IF IT SURVIVES, HE PREDICTED THAT IT WILL
BECOME MORE DIFFICULT TO OPPOSE IT, PARTICULARLY IF
ELECTIONS ARE ACTUALLY HELD AND A MAJORITY-RULE GOVERN-
MENT INSTALLED. ONLY IF AGREEMENT BREAKS DOWN IN SQUAB-
BLING AMONG INTERNAL NATIONALISTS DID HE SEE
A NEW OPENING FOR PF. RIGHT NOW, ACCORDING TO LEGWAILA,
BOTSWANA AND OTHER FL STATES SHOULD WITHDRAW SUPPORT
AND SANCTUARIES FROM PF AND LET THEM "OPERATE FROM THE
MOON" AGAINST RHODESIA.
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6. IN SUBSEQUENT MEETING, LEGWAILA TOLD ME HE BELIEVED
OTHER FL COUNTRIES SHARE GOB'S PERCEPTIONS THAT PF HAS
TO BE SQUEEZED HARDER BECAUSE NO PEACEFUL TRANSITION
CAN BE ARRANGED WITHOUT THEM.
NORLAND

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